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CHAPA Housing Briefs

March 2020



State Updates

CHAPA Postpones Housing Day at the State House
Out of an abundance of caution due to concerns about the spread of the coronavirus, [CHAPA postponed its Housing Day at the State House](#). Thank you to all who registered to attend and set up meetings with their legislators. We look forward to being back in touch with all of our participants regarding future opportunities to help promote CHAPA's affordable housing priorities!

UPCOMING EVENTS*

April 9th, 2020

[CHAPA Fair Housing Forum: Fair Housing Beyond the Law](#)

May 8th, 2020

[Chapter 40B Training: Taking the Initiative on Housing Production in Your Community](#)

**Please note all event details are subject to change in the coming weeks in accordance with COVID-19 updates.*

DHCD Releases NOFA for Community Scale Housing Initiative

On March 9, [DHCD released a Notice of Funding Availability](#) (NOFA) for the Community Scale Housing Initiative. The initiative supports small affordable housing projects of 5–20 units. Pre-applications are due on April 30th.

Supplemental Budget Passed with Funding for Get the Lead Out, LIHEAP, & HomeBASE

On March 4, [Governor Baker signed a supplemental budget for FY2020](#). The budget contains \$5 million to recapitalize the Get the Lead Out Program to support lead paint remediation, \$15 million for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), and \$2 million in additional funding for HomeBASE.

Governor Baker Files Economic Development Bill

On March 4, [Governor Baker filed an Economic Development Bill](#), which includes many housing related provisions such as the Housing Choice bill, an expansion of the Housing Development Incentive Program, funding for developing affordable housing around public transit, resources for affordable passive house construction, public housing reforms to address capital needs, and neighborhood stabilization funds.

Baker Administration Awards \$2.15 Million for Gateways Housing Rehabilitation Program

On February 28, the [Baker-Polito Administration announced \\$2.15 million in awards](#) for the new Gateways Housing Rehabilitation Program. The funding will support awards in nine communities to rehabilitate 75 housing units and make them available to low and middle-income households.

Jennifer Maddox Named as DHCD Undersecretary

On February 21, Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Mike Kennealy named [Jennifer Maddox as Undersecretary of the Department of Housing and Community Development](#) (DHCD). Maddox mostly recently served as the Acting Undersecretary and has been with the department for over 20 years.



As part of the [20th Affordable Housing Competition](#), student teams pictured here discussed sustainability and construction trade offs after Workshop Night. Working alongside affordable housing organizations from across the state, we can't wait to see what these five teams of graduate students come up with!

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DHCD Seeks Comments on Draft Moving to Work Plan

[DHCD is seeking public comments](#) on its draft FY2021 Moving To Work Annual Plan. The plan determines how DHCD administers its federal Housing Choice Voucher program. The department will host public meetings on March 23 in Boston and March 25 in Springfield. Comments are due April 4.



Federal Updates

HUD Announces \$1.1 Million in Funding for New Foster Youth to Independence Initiative

On March 5, the [HUD announced an additional \\$1.1 million in funding](#) for its new Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) initiative. The program provides funding to public housing authorities to help young adults access safe, affordable housing when transitioning out of foster care.

U.S. House of Representatives Passes the YIMBY Act

On March 2, the [House of Representatives passed the Yes In My Backyard \(YIMBY\) Act](#) without opposition. The bill aims to increase transparency in local land-use policies by requiring jurisdictions receiving Community Development Block Grants to explain how they are removing discriminatory land-use policies and promoting inclusive, affordable housing.



Recent Research

Federal Reserve Releases Community Reinvestment Act Data Tables

On March 6, the [Federal Reserve Board released a series of Community Reinvestment Act \(CRA\) Analytics Data Tables](#) to provide insight into the historical relationship between bank lending activity and regulatory CRA assessments. The Federal Reserve did not join the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation in their [joint notice of proposed rule-making to modernize the CRA](#), for which the comment period has been extended to Wednesday, April 8th.

CEDAC Research Shows Lower Risk for LIHTC Units Losing Affordability at Year 30

On February 26, [CEDAC released a study](#) on the risk of units in the Commonwealth losing their affordability at Year 30 after being financed through the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program. Findings show that 13,466 (86%) of the units in the study are subject to some form of longer-term affordability restrictions and will not be at risk for market conversion.



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